

Junior School Welcome Handbook

NURSERY TO YEAR 6

stChris

2019-20

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL
LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY



stChris

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WELCOME

This booklet is designed to answer the questions that new families may have before joining us and during the first weeks and months of starting at St Chris.

If you have any further queries before your start date, please contact the Admissions team. Once your child has started at St Chris, your class teacher and the Junior School Office will be your main points of contact, and there is more information about this further on in the booklet.

OUR AIM

St Chris seeks to be a continuously developing community of children and adults working together to enable all to achieve their best academically and beyond the classroom in an open atmosphere.

All are valued as individuals and encouraged to develop in curiosity, competence, judgement, kindness and courage.

St Chris aims for pupils to become both self-disciplined and self-motivated individuals; independent learners and creative thinkers able to make informed choices in a modern world with a commitment to service, informality, healthy living and self-government.

The School seeks to prepare pupils for happy and fulfilled lives in the service of others.

ABOUT THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

St Chris Junior School, for children aged 3 to 11, is comprised of a Nursery, a Reception class, and Years 1 to 6.

The Junior School is a special place. We are proud of our children's academic progress, their confidence, their love of learning, their care for themselves and each other and their insatiable capacity for fun.

Two Nursery classes (Half Monte for children from the term they turn three,

Top Monte the following year) and our Reception class are located in a dedicated Early Years Centre. From Years 1 to 6 children are taught in the main Junior School building.

There is one class in each year until Year 4, where the year divides into two. Small classes are supported by a teaching assistant in each year group and the maximum class size is 20.

The teaching and learning provision is embedded with an ethos of unconditional positive regard that sees teachers respond to children with kindness and authenticity. The St Chris Junior School provides children with opportunities to flourish.

We are proud of our long tradition of excellent pastoral care and high expectations. We build on the natural enthusiasm of children to ensure that all achieve their best in an environment that inspires and encourages. Our aim is for all St Chris students to gain independence, confidence and a love of learning in a place where childhood is celebrated.

We hope that your family will enjoy many happy years as part of the St Chris community.

KATIE WRIGHT
HEAD OF THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Welcome to the Junior School

MESSAGE FOR PUPILS FROM ALEX, HEAD GIRL & KADEN, HEAD BOY

As Head Girl and Head Boy of St Chris, we want to wish you a warm welcome. We thought you might find it useful to know a little bit about our roles and what we do.

At St Chris we have a team of twelve Major Officials (similar to prefects in other schools), who represent the student body and do a wide range of jobs throughout the School:

Head Girl	Alex Maggiolini
Head Boy	Kaden Lambert
Deputy Head Girl	Neve Hunton
Deputy Head Boy	Joshua Kilcoyne
Chair of Events & Fundraising	Bella Shannon
Chair of Be Green	Benji Dorman
Chair of Council	Tom Romain
Treasurer of Council	Rhean Rajgor
Secretary of Council	Luke Stagg
Chair of Human Rights	Eve Durant & Rex Worthington
Chair of Food Committee	Olly Brown
Head Boarder	Rebecca Hank

The School Council is an important feature of our community. It gives the pupils a chance to voice their views and opinions. You can find information about the Junior School Council further on in this book.

Coming to a new school may feel daunting, but everyone is very supportive and friendly. We were all new to St Chris once (even the teachers!) so please do not hesitate to talk to us about any problems or queries you may have. As Head Girl and Boy we feel a personal responsibility to ensure that you feel comfortable and happy, and we look forward to meeting you soon!

With best wishes,
ALEX AND KADEN

KEY CONTACTS

A full staff list can be found on the website: www.stchris.co.uk/about-us/staff

Before starting with us, your key contacts will be:

Kate Allan Registrar kate.allan@stchris.co.uk	Kate and Sarah remain your main contacts before you start with us.
Sarah Davis Admissions Assistant sarah.davis@stchris.co.uk	
Jo Pitts Junior School Secretary jo.pitts@stchris.co.uk	You should contact Jo with questions about booking clubs or Wraparound Care for the term you start.
Ranjan Parmar Finance Assistant ranjan.parmar@stchris.co.uk	Ranjan is your contact for any queries regarding invoicing or payment of fees & extras (such as school lunch).
Lucy Coddington Assistant Bursar lucy.coddington@stchris.co.uk	Please contact Lucy with questions about the school bus.
www.coachhire.com/st-christopher	Please use this website to view bus routes & book journeys. You will be invoiced by Finance at the end of term.

Term Dates 2019–20

AUTUMN TERM 2019

Start of Term	Thursday 5 September	8.30am
First Half Ends	Friday 25 October	3.20pm
Half Term	Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November	
Second Half Begins	Monday 4 November	8.30am
Term Ends	Friday 13 December	12 Noon

SPRING TERM 2020

Start of Term	Tuesday 7 January	8.30am
First Half Ends	Friday 14 February	3.20pm
Half Term	Monday 17 to Friday 21 February	
Second Half Begins	Monday 24 February	8.30am
Term Ends	Friday 27 March	12 Noon

SUMMER TERM 2020

Start of Term	Monday 20 April	8.30am
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 May	
First Half Ends	Friday 22 May	3.20pm
Half Term	Monday 25 to Friday 29 May	
Second Half Begins	Monday 1 June	8.30am
Summer Fair	Saturday 20 June	
Term Ends	Friday 10 July	12 Noon

INTRODUCTION TO THE EARLY YEARS CENTRE (EYC) & JUNIOR SCHOOL YEAR GROUPS

Early Years Centre	Half Monte	Nursery (Rising 3's)
	Top Monte	Nursery (Rising 4's)
	K Group	Reception

Key Stage 1

(Junior School)	J Group	Year 1
	H Group	Year 2

Key Stage 2

(Junior School)	G Group	Year 3
	F Group	Year 4 (2 x classes)
	E Group	Year 5 (2 x classes)
	D Group	Year 6 (2 x classes)

THE EYC DAY

8.30am	Start of the school day. Children can be dropped off at the Early Years Centre from 8.00am.
8.30 to 10.00am	Session 1
10 to 10.30am	Playtime
10.30 to 11.30am	Session 2
11.30	Lunch in the main school
12.30pm	Outdoor play
1.30pm	Nursery morning session ends Nursery afternoon session begins
3.00pm	Snack
3.20pm	End of the day for K Group (Reception) and Nursery afternoon session
	Children can join a club in the Junior School (until 4.30pm) or go to After School Care in the Junior School (until 6.30pm). They will be accompanied by a member of staff to the Junior School.

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL DAY

8.30am	Start of the school day. Children can be dropped off from 7.30am for Breakfast Club.
8.40am	Registration
8.50am	Morning Talk
9.10 to 10.10am	Session 1
10.10 to 10.30am	Morning break
10.30am	Session 2
11.45am to 12.30pm	Start of Lunch (year group dependant)
12.30 to 1.10pm	Playtime
1.10pm	Session 3
3.20pm	End of the day Children can join a club (until 4.30pm) or go to After School Care (until 6.30pm).

A-Z OF THE EYC & JUNIOR SCHOOL

ABSENCE

Unplanned absences due to an emergency or sickness, for example, should be reported to Lesley Farrell (EYC only) or Jo Pitts in the Junior School Office.

When a child returns from an absence due to illness, they should bring a note for our records; an email is also acceptable. We follow-up on any absences that we have not been notified about.

If your child is unwell and unable to participate in a PE or a swimming session, please ensure that the class teacher is informed in writing or by e-mail beforehand.

If parents wish for their child to miss school for any reason other than illness or an emergency medical appointment then they should write to Katie Wright

in advance, requesting permission for the absence.

If your child has an appointment during the school day, please sign your child out, and back in.

Lateness should be avoided whenever possible; it disrupts a child's learning routine and the school day as a whole. Late arrivals for the Junior School should report to the Junior School Office.

ACCESS

The EYC and Junior School have a key pad for entry – parents are given the codes when they start with us. Please keep these confidential.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

A wide range of after school clubs are offered every term, and parents are sent

a list at the end of each term with a booking form. Most clubs are included in the school fees; where they are not, this will be clear on the booking form. Please note that there are no clubs in the first and last week of term.

Children are asked to choose activities which they feel confident committing to for a whole term. We try to accommodate as many 'first choices' as possible however, sometimes children will not be able to join their preferred activity. In such cases we endeavour to allocate a second choice.

When School ends at 3.20pm, children are taken to the Junior School Hall where a register is taken and a snack available, before clubs start. Clubs usually finish at 4.30pm but timings vary, so please check. Children should be collected from the classroom or area in which the activity takes place.

Parents should let the Junior School Office know if their child cannot attend a club. Places are offered at the discretion of the Head, and repeated late collection may result in a place being withdrawn.

BANK DETAILS

The bank details are the same for all payments to the School, so it is important that parents use a reference for each, e.g. **SURNAME FEES** or **SURNAME TRIP**.

Account Name

St Christopher School
(Letchworth) Limited

Account Number 90800643

Sort Code 20-41-38

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE: WRAPAROUND CARE

St Chris Wraparound Care provides a vital service to parents whose work day extends beyond the core school hours. St Chris delivers extended on-site childcare in a happy and homely environment for Junior School pupils from 7.30am in the morning to 6.30pm after school as follows:

Breakfast Club (7.30 to 8.30am)

Breakfast Club is available from 7.30am and includes a hot or continental breakfast each day of the week.

Breakfast Club takes place in the Senior School Dining Hall (IG). Children are dropped off with a member of the Junior School team who supervise them at the Senior School.

At around 8.00am, after they have finished eating, children are taken to the Morning Care Room in the Junior School or to the Early Years Centre where they are able to play and get ready for the day ahead, which starts at 8.30am.

Children can attend as many or as few mornings per week as you wish, subject to availability.

For samples of our breakfast menu please see the School website www.stchris.co.uk

Morning Care (8.00 to 8.30am)

Children can be dropped off between 8.00 and 8.30am directly in the Early Years Centre or at the Junior School Morning Care Room, even if they are not taking part in Breakfast Club. The school day starts at 8.30am. There is no additional charge for Morning Care and no need to book.

After School Care (3.20 to 6.30pm)

Junior School and Early Years children can join After School Care from the end of the day until 6.30pm.

At the end of the school day, or after they have taken part in their after-school club, children are taken to the After School Care rooms, where they take part in supervised activities. Older children can work on their homework in a quiet atmosphere.

On arrival, children are offered a healthy drink and snack. Children who stay between 5.30 and 6.30pm are accompanied to the Dining Hall (IG) in the Senior School for dinner.

For details of our sample dinner menu please see the School website www.stchris.co.uk

Please note, children booked on a school bus attend After School Care between 3.20 pm and the departure time of the bus without charge.

Children can attend as many or as few sessions per week as you wish, subject to availability. After School Care needs to be booked in advance.

Please note, After School Care closes at 6.30pm, and children picked up at

this time must be collected punctually. We recommend that parents arrive by 6.25pm at the latest in order to ensure that we close on time.

Costs for Wraparound Care are payable retrospectively and will be added to the bill for the following term. Children should be collected promptly at the end their session; if a child is not collected within 10 minutes of a session finishing parents will be charged the full rate for the following session.

HOW TO BOOK

Wraparound Care for pupils in the Early Years and Junior School needs to be booked in advance (strictly by 1.00pm the previous day) with the Junior School Office.

Please email junior.school@stchris.co.uk or call **+44 (0) 1462 650 962**

You are welcome to book both regular and occasional 'ad-hoc' sessions depending on availability.

Places are limited and bookings are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Cancellations with less than 24 hours' notice are charged in full.

WRAPAROUND CARE CHARGES	MEAL	CHARGE
Breakfast Club	7.30 – 8.00am	Breakfast £5.05
Morning Care	8.00 – 8.30am	NA NA
After School Care	3.20 – 4.30pm	Snack £5.05
	4.30 – 5.30pm	NA £5.05
	5.30 – 6.30pm	Dinner £5.05

BIRTHDAYS

From the Nursery to D Group (Year 6) we are happy for children to celebrate their birthday with us. Children may bring in something special to eat (a birthday cake or treat) to share with their friends if they wish. Please speak to a member of staff if you are planning a birthday treat, so you can be made aware of any allergies.

BREAKS

There are two breaks during the school day: Little Break from 10.10 to 10.30am and Lunch Break from 12.40 to 1.40pm. There is a snack of fresh fruit and water at Little Break and students are also welcome to bring their own snacks. For the rest of the lunch break, students can go to clubs or use the school grounds and common rooms.

BUDDIES

All new students at St Chris are allocated a buddy who looks after them for the first few days.

BUS ROUTES & BOOKING

Normally, we are happy for children from Year 5 and above to travel on the school coach, but we ask that parents check first with the Head, Katie.

St Chris has a partnership with a company so that students can travel from certain areas direct to school on our own coaches. To find out more and to book a seat on any route, please go to the company website:

www.coachhire.com/st-schristopher

If you have specific questions about this service, please contact Lucy Coddington, Assistant Bursar:

lucy.coddington@stchris.co.uk.

The coaches leave from the swimming pool car park and there are staff on hand to ensure students are on the correct bus.

COMMON PROBLEMS

Friendships

Most friendship patterns sort themselves out naturally without adults getting involved, and children form lasting, happy relationships. However, parents should contact the class teacher if their child becomes unhappy or withdrawn, or if they are struggling to settle in, and pupils should also feel free to speak to their teacher at any time. Parents should also contact the class teacher if they suspect that behaviour towards their child may be deliberately unkind.

Lost Belongings

Please ensure that all of your child's belongings are clearly named. Children should not bring valuable items into school. Belongings do get mislaid but using the cloakroom and ensuring everything is named helps prevent problems. Lost property is handed in to the Junior School Office.

CLOTHING

Everyday Clothing

Please ensure your children's clothes are appropriate for school work and play. Camouflage and military-type clothing are unsuitable.

All children are asked to have indoor shoes to change into and these must be non-slip. The ideal indoor shoes are Crocs, sensible slippers or similar.

In the winter, children need an outdoor coat as we always try to get outside at break times! In the summer, please ensure you use sun cream before they come into school and that they have a hat for break times.

In the EYC all children should bring a spare set of labelled clothes, waterproof clothing and wellies; they go outside come rain or shine! For Forest School, Junior School children also need to bring in wellies and waterproof trousers.

Other Equipment

Your child will need a pencil case and water bottle every day. Please ensure their school bag is of a reasonable size as our cloakrooms have limited space. A small book bag is provided for younger Junior School children.

PE Kit

All children have two PE lessons and one swimming lesson a week. They will need an appropriate PE kit for their lessons. We ask that all footwear worn for PE is sport appropriate and offers adequate traction and support. Please note that children need a separate pair of trainers for PE or Games, these should not be the same ones that they wear for school.

Please ensure that ALL clothing and PE kit is named and brought to school in a named PE bag.

PE Kit can be bought online using the following link: www.swidtp.co.uk

Nursery, K, J and H Group (Nursery to Year 2):

Children in these year groups do not need to purchase a St Chris PE kit. However, they will need the following:

- Shorts (navy/black without loops, pockets or a belt)
- White T shirt
- Sports trainers (not fashion trainers or plimsoles) that children can put on and take off themselves
- Sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms for colder days
- Swimsuit/trunks, swim hat and towel, optional goggles

G to D Group (Years 3 to 6):

Children in these year groups need to purchase a St Chris PE kit. Please purchase the following in the first instance:

Girls

- 2 x polo shirts
- 1 x tracksuit top or rugby top
- 1 x tracksuit bottoms
- 1 x pair of shorts OR skort
- 1 x pair of football socks
- 1 x swimsuit

Boys

- 2 x polo shirts
- 1 x rugby top or tracksuit top
- 1 x tracksuit bottoms
- 1 x pair of shorts
- 1 x pair of football socks
- 1 x pair of swim shorts

Children in G to D Group (Years 3 to 6) also require the following from the Autumn Term onwards:

- Football boots
- Sports trainers (not fashion trainers)
- Shin pads
- Gum shield
- 1 x swimsuit/trunks, swim hat and towel, optional goggles

COMMUNICATION

An up-to-date list of all St Chris staff can be found on our website www.stchris.co.uk/staff

All staff can be reached by email using the format: firstname.surname@stchris.co.uk

Effective communication between home and School is essential in supporting children's social, emotional and academic progress. To aid this, please ensure we have your up-to-date contact details.

In September we hold a Parent Information Evening with information on the curriculum, routines and the year ahead. If you are joining us in September, you will receive an invitation to this in the summer.

In addition to formal written reports and parent consultations, teachers are available to talk briefly to parents before morning registration and are happy to respond to telephone calls or emails. If a more detailed discussion is needed, an appointment can be made with your child's teacher at a mutually convenient time.

Details of events can be found on the online calendar at <https://www.stchris.co.uk/news/calendar/>

We use an online parent portal (and App) to communicate with parents. Prior to starting at St Chris, the Admissions team will send you further information and your log in details.

Once you start at St Chris, you will receive a weekly school mailing through the portal on a Friday with updates on upcoming events and activities.

You will also be available to view your child's timetable, messages from your class teacher and your child's school reports on the portal.

You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@stchris_school).

The wider life of the School can also be enjoyed by parents through community events such as the Christmas Fair, Summer Fair and events organised by the Parents' Circle.

COMPLAINTS

A copy of our Complaints Policy can be found on our website. <https://www.stchris.co.uk/about-us/policies/>

The open climate of St Chris encourages parents, along with children and staff, to voice their concerns. Usually discussion of a matter allays or removes the worry without the need for formal procedures.

Where a parent wishes to make a formal complaint, they should contact the Head Richard Palmer, in the first instance: head@stchris.co.uk.

CONTACTING THE GOVERNORS

The Chair of the Governors may be contacted in confidence by email at bertie.leigh@stchris.co.uk or c/o the main school address:

Chair of Governors, St Christopher School, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 3JZ.

CURRICULUM QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

For more information about the Junior School Curriculum please visit our website: <https://www.stchris.co.uk/junior-school/junior-school-curriculum/>

Queries around curriculum matters should be discussed with the class teacher. When this is not appropriate, please contact Katie Wright, Head of the Junior School:

katie.wright@stchris.co.uk

DOGS

Other than guide or hearing dogs, dogs are not allowed in the School buildings. Please keep dogs on a lead at all times and under your direct control.

DROP OFF & COLLECTION

If parents have made alternative arrangements for collection, we ask that the class teacher is informed. In case of emergency regarding collection or drop-off, please contact the Junior School Office. Any child who is not collected by 3.30pm will be taken to the Junior School Office.

For Nursery children, the school day runs from 8.30am to 1.30pm, unless parents have requested additional time. On arrival, parents are asked to take their child to the cloakroom and help

them to hang up their coat and change into their indoor shoes, before dropping them off in the appropriate classroom. At the end of the day, collection is outside the cloakroom area.

In the Junior School (Reception to Year 6), the school day starts at 8.30am and finishes at 3.20pm, unless a child is attending a club or After-School Care. Drop off is at classroom doors. In the afternoon, children from Reception to Year 3 (K to G Group) should be collected from their classroom and children in Years 4 to 6 (F to D Group) from their classroom or the main foyer.

Year 6 (D Group) parents who live nearby may request that their child walks home on their own or they may wish to meet them at the back gate of the School. This must be agreed in advance with the Junior School – please contact the Junior School Office for further information.

Children may play on the grass in front of both the Junior School and EYC after they have been collected, but they must be supervised by their parents/guardians.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The School prides itself in providing equal opportunities for all children regardless of ability, religion, sex, culture, ethnic origin or class. Discrimination in any form is treated as unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We respond positively to difference and ensure that all members of the St Chris community are valued and encouraged to develop their potential.

FOOD

Lunch

We enjoy fresh vegetarian food. Every day there are two hot choices, a salad bar and bread and fillings to make sandwiches. There is also a pudding and fruit. Weekly menus can be found on the parent portal.

Please note that we are not a nut-free school, and need to be aware of any allergies or intolerances that your child may have to nuts or other ingredients.

Children eat lunch in the Dining Hall, known as the IG (because many years ago it was used as an Indoor Gym!) You might want to be aware that during lunch, a bell is rung to signal a moment of silence.

There is no charge for lunches for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. For children in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 the cost is £150 per term.

Children are welcome to bring packed lunches, but please let the Finance Office know before the start of each term, as these will be charged in advance each term: finance@stchris.co.uk. Please respect our vegetarian policy for packed lunches.

Cake Day

We hold a Cake Day each Friday as a treat for the children, who bring in 20p each, with all proceeds going to charity. Each class takes it in turn to provide the cakes; the rota can be found on the calendar and the teacher will also remind the class when it's their turn. We ask that children bring in 10-12 cakes which can either be homemade or bought and respect our vegetarian policy. (Please be aware that jelly sweets

and other foods containing gelatine are often not vegetarian.)

Snacks

A snack is available in the EYC during the morning and at the end of the afternoon session. Fresh fruit and vegetables are placed on the snack table and children are encouraged to help themselves. Water is also available throughout the day.

In the Junior School we provide a healthy snack of fruit and juice for the children at Morning Break (10.10am), when children may also bring a healthy snack to eat from home. Please ensure that your child does not bring sweets, chocolate bars or fizzy drinks to school. Children have access to drinking water throughout the day.

FOREST SCHOOL

Children from the Nursery to Year 4 (F Group) participate in weekly Forest School lessons. Forest School offers children the opportunity to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland environment.

Please see the section on **Everyday Clothing** above for the clothing that children need for this lesson.

HEALTH

The School has two School Nurses. It is important that the School Nurse has updated medical information for your child, therefore we would be grateful if any changes are passed on to them, via the Junior School Office, as soon as possible.

Accident Forms

If a child has an accident at school which has been dealt with by a member of staff, a copy of the Accident form is put in the child's book bag or drawer. If it has been necessary to call the School Nurse, she will complete a Health & Safety Incident & Accident Form and pass it to the Bursar, and parents receive a copy. Additionally, if the School Nurse has administered non-prescription medication, a form is sent home.

Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis medication is kept in the EYC and Junior School staffrooms. It is stored in boxes for individual children, clearly named and with a photograph of the child. Please ensure medication is replaced when it reaches the expiry date.

Asthma

Asthma inhalers for children from Nursery to Year 2 (Monte to H Group) are kept by teachers in the classroom. If a child in Early Years needs to use his/her inhaler, then the School Nurse is called as soon as possible to check the child.

Children in Years 3 to 6 (G to D Groups) are responsible for keeping their own asthma medication with them. Although teachers may periodically check that the inhaler has an appropriate expiry date, parents bear the responsibility for ensuring that their child's inhaler is in School and in date. Parents are responsible for keeping the School informed of any changes to their child's asthma medication. All children with inhalers must take them to events/ trips that are off site.

Illness at School

If your child becomes ill while at school a member of staff will contact the parents and ask for the child to be collected. If a child has suffered from vomiting or diarrhoea, please do not let them return to school until they have been clear of the symptoms for 48 hours.

Medicines

In the EYC prescribed medication is administered only on the completion of a request form by the parent or carer. It is important that parents and carers sign this form at the end of each day. Medication is kept in a fridge in a locked office.

In the Junior School prescribed medicines are administered at the request of a child's parent or carer and with the consent of the School Nurse and Head of the Junior School. Medication is kept in the School's surgery and administered by the School Nurse, who keeps details of its administration.

Early Years and Junior School staff do not administer non-prescription medication and parents are requested not to ask them to do so.

The School Nurse can administer non-prescription medicines in accordance with a child's completed medical forms. Should this be necessary she will telephone home beforehand to ascertain whether any medication has been administered prior to school, however please also let the class teacher know if this has been the case. Please do not send non-prescription medicines into school.

We do not keep any medicines in classrooms except asthma inhalers and EpiPens. Staff are trained as appropriate in the health conditions of pupils (e.g. asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy) and the administration of medicines.

HOMEWORK

Children from Year 1 to Year 6 are given the opportunity to select work from a range of creative curriculum areas. This is set at the beginning of each half term.

INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL LESSONS

There are a wide variety of instrumental and vocal music lessons available at St Chris run by a range of external teachers.

Please visit our website to find out more about which instruments are taught and to download the booking form: <https://www.stchris.co.uk/junior-school/junior-school-activities/>

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

The Junior School Council, comprising two elected representatives from each class, meets each Tuesday to discuss issues affecting the Junior School and is supported by the Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl, from the Senior School.

During the meeting children report back on their class's response to the previous meeting, and then discuss any issues, ideas or concerns. These might be their own ideas, or they might be relaying something from their class. Some classes have a box for people to put suggestions in, others rely on good communication from councillors.

Every child in school council makes a significant contribution to school life, from the youngest to the oldest. The children are very involved in the discussions and decision making, and they have their own budget.

LAMDA

We offer LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) lessons to children in Year 4 and above, which are scheduled during the school day. If you would like to know more, or wish to book LAMDA lessons, please go to the following page on our website: <https://www.stchris.co.uk/junior-school/junior-school-activities/>

LIBRARY

The Junior School library is looked after by the Resources Assistant who helps parents and children choose appropriate reading material and provides resources for teachers. All children are taught how to use and enjoy the library.

MOBILE PHONES

We understand that some parents may wish for their child to carry a mobile phone to and from school. If this is the case, the phone should be left with the Junior School Office during the day. Children in the Junior School are not allowed to have mobile phones in the classroom or in their school bags.

MORNING TALKS

Morning Talk (assembly) is held for J to D Group (Years 1 to 6) each day and features music, talks and performances. From the end of September each year, the K Group (Reception) go up to the Junior School to watch Morning Talks, and Nursery children from later in the year.

Each term all classes produce a Morning Talk based on their work for the term. Parents and carers are invited to come and watch what is often one of the highlights of the term. It provides an excellent basis on which to develop drama, music, speaking and listening skills and is great fun. A silence is held during Morning Talk, which we use for reflection.

OPEN MORNINGS

On Open Mornings pupils in Years 5 and 6 (E and D Group) are asked to attend from 9.00am to 1.00pm to help, either by showing prospective families around the Junior School or by taking part in classroom-based activities. These events take place in the Autumn and Spring each year and a letter goes home to parents with further information closer to the event.

OPTIONS

In Year 6 (D Group) children go up to spend Thursday afternoons in the Senior School, taking part in art, cookery and computer science. This allows them to enjoy a wider curriculum and start their transition to the Senior School.

PARKING

Parents of children attending the EYC may park in Muddy Lane for drop off and collection. The EYC car park is for staff only – please do not use it for dropping off or collecting children.

Parking is available in the car parks by: the Junior School playground, the swimming pool and the mini-roundabout. We request that parents park in the bays provided and not on yellow lines or in the disabled bays unless a blue badge is displayed.

PARENTS' CIRCLE

Each class has its own Parents' Circle Rep who makes contact with parents of children in their class to organise events, such as Cake Days or teams for our quiz nights.

If you are happy to share your contact details with your Class Rep please contact the Parents' Circle via email mail@stchrispc.co.uk. We would also encourage you to sign up for ClassList which is the main communication tool for the Parents' Circle:

www.schoolclasslist.com

PE & GAMES

From Year 3, pupils take part in Games, PE and Swimming. Games involves two year groups together taking part in sports such as hockey, rugby, football and netball. Pupils can also take part in associated fixtures. PE only involves the child's own class and is more focused on keeping fit, for example dance.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

A comprehensive list of our policies and procedures can be found on our school website:

www.stchris.co.uk/aboutus/policies

REPORTS & PARENT MEETINGS

We issue reports twice each year, once at Christmas and once at the end of the academic year, via the parent portal.

Formal parent consultation meetings are held each term; these are opportunities for parents and teachers to discuss progress. We provide two dates for these consultations to try and ensure that as many parents as possible can attend. In the unusual event that a parent cannot make either date, they should contact their child's class teacher.

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

At St Chris, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the person appointed to take central responsibility for child protection issues and safeguarding concerns in the School.

Everyone in the St Chris community shares the goal of helping to keep children safe by contributing to a safe environment for all through communication, vigilance and taking appropriate action.

For a student or a parent, the best person to approach with any concerns in the first instance is the class teacher. However, if it is felt that this is not appropriate in the circumstances, other members of staff may also be approached, including the Head.

Designated Safeguarding Lead Whole School

Rich Jones
rich.jones@stchris.co.uk

Designated Safeguarding Lead EYC and Junior School

Katie Wright
katie.wright@stchris.co.uk

Deputy Safeguarding Lead Junior School

Zareena Subhani
zareena.subhani@stchris.co.uk

Deputy Safeguarding Lead EYC

Lesley Farrell
lesley.farrell@stchris.co.uk

Deputy Safeguarding Lead EYC

Rebecca Simon
rebecca.simon@stchris.co.uk

SECURITY

Entrance and Exit

Pupils can enter the Junior School via the front gate and door only. These are opened automatically at drop-off and collection times.

Visitors

Visitors should use the entry buzzer to gain access to the EYC and Junior School respectively. All visitors (including parents) must report to the Junior or Senior School Reception on arrival, where they will be given an identity badge and made aware of our Safeguarding and fire procedures.

SPECIALIST TEACHING

Where children take part in swimming, music or French lessons, these are led by specialist teachers.

SWIMMING

All children from the EYC to Year 6 (D Group) have a weekly swimming lesson which is led by experienced and qualified instructors.

Parents can also book additional swimming lessons through the St Chris Swim School; these take place after school hours and at the weekend. You can find further information by visiting our website: <https://www.stchris.co.uk/school-life/swim-school/>

TOURS

We enjoy welcoming visitors to St Chris, and, in the case of prospective visiting families, pupils are asked to be involved in tours. Children who are in Year 5 and 6 (E and D Group) show visitors around the Junior School, but they are not allowed to leave the grounds and tours are carried out by two children at a time. We always ask children if they are happy to take part and tours last no longer than 40 minutes.

TOYS

Children are welcome to bring toys and games into school, although we ask that no toy weapons are brought in. Scooters may be used at playtimes; however, a helmet must be worn. Children should not bring valuable items to school.

TRIPS

There are trips throughout the year for all year groups. Most are day trips, some are residential. You will be given plenty of notice for these beforehand, with full kit lists, etc.

Please note that where there is an additional cost for a trip, you will be notified beforehand and it will usually be added to your bill retrospectively at the end of term.

The exception to this is the LSP (Late Summer Programme) which all children in Years 3 to 6 (G to D Group) take part in. The cost for this is divided into three equal payments and charged for at the beginning of each term in the main fees invoice.